

Sovereign Hill Education

Tent to Town Trail

A Self-Guided trail for Primary Students

Name

Year

It is recommended that students plot this trail on the map before starting.



The Slab Hut

This hut was built in the 1840s before gold was discovered. Ballarat was then a green and peaceful valley where a few shepherds worked on the sheep runs of the local settlers.

1 The early sheep farmers were called squ..... because they didn't own the land, but paid a type of rent to the government.

2 What was the job of the men who lived in this hut?

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3 Look at the timber walls. Why do you think it was called a "slab" hut?

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4 What is the roof made from? Why was it necessary to fix small tree limbs onto the roof?

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5 The floor is made of mud mixed with fresh cow manure which sets very hard. Why was this mixture used?

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6 What is different about the window in this hut compared to modern windows?

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7 Where did the shepherd get his furniture?

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8 What materials do you think he has used to make his mattress?

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9 Does this shepherd live alone? How do you know?

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10 Draw two unusual things you see in the hut.



Married Couple's Hut

- 1 This hut is a lot better than a tent or humpy.
List three reasons why.

a

b

c

- 2 This hut is called the "married couple's hut".
How many people do you think lived here?
How do you know?

- 3 Of what materials is the hut made?

- 4 Where did this family wash their clothes?

- 5 If you lived in this hut, what directions would you
give to a visitor trying to find you?



The Post Office

The Postmaster and his family lived in the rooms behind the Post Office.

- 1 How is this home different from the others?

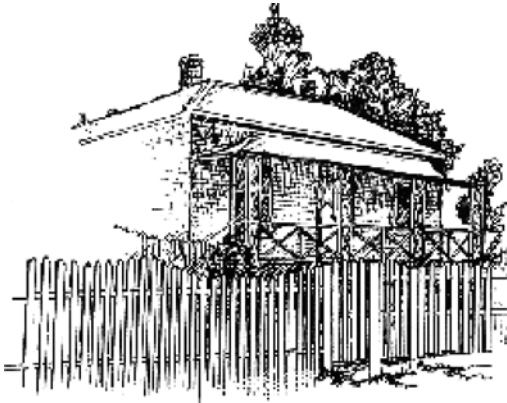
- 2 Do you think these differences have something to do with his job? Why?

- 3 Think of some words and phrases to describe the Postmaster's furniture.

- 4 Look in the kitchen. Where do these people get their water?

- 5 Why might it be important to have a vegetable garden in the 1850s?

- 6 What vegetables can you recognise?



St Ives

The occupants of this house are rather wealthy. They have sailed back to “the old country” for a visit. The house is locked up in their absence. You cannot go in, so look at the house from the street.

- 1 What is different about the outside walls of this house compared to the others in the street?

- 2 What material is the roof made from?

- 3 What sort of job might the owner of this house have had?

- 4 How many fireplaces does this house have?
How do you know?

- 5 Why would this house be more expensive to build than the others in this street?

By the end of the 1850s, Ballarat had become a big town. Many people lived in cottages like this. There were many jobs in the new town, in businesses as well as the mines.

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- This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. On the left side, there is a vertical margin line, creating a narrow left margin. The paper appears to be from a notebook or a standard ruled sheet.

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- This image shows a full page of primary-ruled paper. It contains ten identical horizontal rows designed for handwriting practice. Each row is defined by three lines: a solid top line, a dashed midline, and a solid bottom line. The rows are evenly spaced and cover the entire page area.



Chambers' Cottage

Mr Chambers is a shop assistant in the town and he is trying to provide a comfortable home for his young family.

Look at the side of the house.

- 1 Why would this be called a "single-gabled" cottage? (Look at the roof.)

- 2 What kind of garden do the Chambers have? Describe it.

Look at the bedroom. (*Look through the window if the cottage is not open.*)

- 3 Where will the children sleep when they grow up?

- 4 What do you have in your bedroom that is not here? List as many items as possible.

- 5 What is one item the Chambers use in their bedroom that you do not use in modern times?

Look in the living room.

- 6 Flies were a big problem on the goldfields. How did Mrs Chambers get rid of the flies?

- 7 Compared to your house, what rooms are missing from this house?

The backyard

- 8 It was often hard to find clean water during the 1850s. Where did the people in Speedwell Street find clean water?

- 9 Stand outside on the street. Are the houses on the lower side better than those on the higher side of the street? Explain your answer.

- 9 What are the advantages and disadvantages of living on each side of the street?

Higher side of street advantages

Higher side of street disadvantages

Lower side of street advantages

Lower side of street disadvantages

1 What is covering the walls of this house?

[illegible]

- [illegible]

- [illegible]

- [illegible]

